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## W A R T I M E   E X T E N S I O N   W O R K

### SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

Findings in farm real-estate survey forecast dangerous post-war situation.

Two farmers find ways to success on poor land.

4-H Victory project combines all club war activities into single endeavor.

Negro farm people have record-breaking year in food production and conservation.

#### KENTUCKY

November 15, 1944

Help of farm women.- Throughout Kentucky, farm women helped to plant, produce, and harvest crops this year. In Anderson County, 153 members of Women's Land Army, and in Mason County, 107, helped with crops. In Hopkins County, Mrs. Pearl McLeod, farm woman, took over management of their 261-acre farm when her son joined the Service. This fall she disked 12 acres for winter cover crop and cut 30 acres of hay.

4-H fall gardens.- Ten thousand fall gardens in Kentucky were green this year through efforts of 4-H Club members. A year ago, late J. M. Feltner, field agent for club work in eastern Kentucky, interested 4-H Club members in planting fall greens. As result, Feltner fall garden project was adopted in virtually all counties. Packets of seed included kale, turnips, mustard greens, and crimson clover. Club members thus provided food for family and grew cover crop of crimson clover to turn under in spring.

Productive farms.- How two farmers built up their farms in a few years is reported from Grayson County. At public sale in 1937, Wilbur Litsey bought 170-acre farm for \$1,000. He went to County Agent R. T. Faulkner for plans that would make it pay for itself and provide a living. Federal Land Bank appraiser said no one could make a living on it and also pay for it. Under plan worked out by Mr. Litsey and county agent, farm paid for itself in 6 years. Two fields were terraced and other land was plowed and cultivated on contour. In 4 years, 2½ tons of limestone an acre were spread and all land was covered with TVA phosphate. All woods were fenced, 200 rods of fence built, house was modernized, electricity installed, and two modern poultry houses were built for 100 hens. Mr. Litsey has 2 mules, 20 ewes, 7 cows, 7 beef cattle, and 25 hogs. He has a small tractor. Family garden has been successful, only 17 cans of products having been bought in 7 years.

Eight years ago, Dillard Higdon of same county had 160 acres of poor land. He has used 200 tons of limestone, top-dressed his hay lands, used fertilizer to increase corn and tobacco yields, and sowed lespedeza, redbud, orchard grass, Balbo rye, and barley. In 1936, Mr. Higdon was producing about 600 pounds of tobacco an acre. Now he gets about 1,600 pounds. His corn, barley, wheat, and hay yields have doubled. Buying about 400 chicks every spring, he keeps about 200 layers. He has 2 teams, 6 cows, 7 steers, and 60 hogs. Mrs. Higdon puts up about 600 quarts of vegetables and fruits a year, and buys less than \$10 worth of foods that might be grown on farm.

Conservation home.- Madison County homemakers saved expense of having about 600 garments dry-cleaned when they put into practice some spot-removal tricks learned in their conservation program. Store-window exhibits of slip-covered or refinished furniture, before and after, showed work of homemakers in this field. Total of 640 pieces were redone, including chairs, divans, stools, trunks, dressing tables, sewing machines, beds, and smaller articles.

Thrifty homemakers in Oldham County are meeting cotton shortage by operating feed-bag exchanges. By trading with neighbors, they get enough of same design to make many useful articles. Homemakers in Caldwell County are reconditioning sewing machines, some of which are 50 to 75 years old.

Negro 4-H awards.- Total of 208 awards for achievements were made at fall round-up of Negro farmers and 4-H Club boys and girls in Logan County. They have had record-breaking year for production and conservation of food. Sixteen booths were used to display some results of year's activities. Many Negro farmers, who once produced only tobacco, corn, and cotton, are now growing other crops, raising stock, dairying, and otherwise diversifying production. They are also joining cooperative organizations as means of improving production and marketing.

Homemakers' annual meetings.- During September and October, 62 annual meetings of county homemakers' associations were held in Kentucky. Attendance was about 8,000 persons, largest since beginning of war. Careful planning of transportation and car sharing gave evidence of interest. Excellent reports of project leaders showed how rural women have been using information and skills acquired in home demonstration program to conserve all available resources of time, energy, equipment, house furnishings, clothing, and food. Homemakers have tried to "make it do, wear it out, fix it up, or do without." Reports also showed that information and skills had been passed on to many women who were not members of homemakers' clubs.

Participation in all kinds of civic enterprises, such as Red Cross work, community improvement projects, public health programs, recreational activities, welfare work, scrap drives, war loan campaigns, was reported by county citizenship chairmen. Reading chairmen told how homemakers' clubs were finding ways to make good reading available to members and to others in community through small club libraries, county homemakers' libraries, book and magazine exchanges, and better use of established library facilities, both county and State.

Exhibits of work accomplished and style revues of garments made were of special interest. Dramatic skit, Make Every Motion Count, given in several counties, showed how time and energy may be conserved by good methods of work. Music and inspirational talks completed programs in most counties.



MICHIGAN  
October 9, 1944

Farm labor.- Emergency farm labor program was 92 percent effective in Michigan, January through August. Total of 41,458 men, women, and children cooperated in program to save crops and served 23,927 farmers. During 8 months, farmers ordered 95,949 workers, and college labor service was able to fill 88,408 jobs. Of total jobs, 39,722 were filled by men, 15,534 by women, and 33,152 by children. Mexican nationals, Jamaicans, Japanese evacuees, war prisoners, and Texas Mexicans made up 25 percent of male working force.

4-H Clubs.- To unite all 4-H Club war activities into single, coordinated endeavor, 4-H Victory project was carried out during spring and summer. Clubs were organized for all-out action to help support boys on battle fronts. Purpose was not to replace established projects in community, but to supplement work already under way. Project provided incentive for young people for any effort they wished to make. Groups of activities were set up, and each club was asked to select minimum number. Each Victory 4-H Club was provided with 4-H Victory poster, in form of large H, and sheet of green gummed stock on which were blocked out different activities listed under groups. When club members completed minimum requirements for activities, these blocks were cut out and transferred to Victory poster. Each club made complete report of what was accomplished. Activities covered citizenship, scrap collection of all kinds, war stamp sales, Junior Red Cross, rodent control, health, first aid, fire prevention, safety, and etiquette. Stimulation of interest in wartime projects was reported.

Largest State 4-H Show in history of Michigan was held at State college in September. About 5,000 boys and girls brought pick of State's 95,000 projects to show. Estimated \$150,000 worth of livestock, and great quantities of foodstuffs, clothing, and handicraft, were exhibited. Quality of fruit and vegetable displays was as high as ever despite summer drought. Members went home richer after selling nearly \$30,000 worth of cattle, hogs, and sheep.

South American visitor.- County agent from Chile, Guillermo Rolando, is spending several months working on farms in various sections of Michigan. State college extension service is cooperating in facilitating his visit. His purpose is to collect information on modern farming practices to carry back to his country.

Back-to-farm counsel.- Michigan Extension Service, with cooperation of Governor Kelly and State planning commission, is making detailed plans to provide counsel for returning war veterans and industrial workers who wish to enter agriculture in Michigan. Skeleton plan was devised at meeting attended by Governor, representatives of labor, industry, agricultural committee of planning commission, and State college. Principal objective, as agreed at meeting, is to prevent purchase of worthless land and misfits taking up farming. County agricultural agents from State's 83 counties gathered at Higgins Lake to study plans for offering counsel to veterans and war workers on farm purchases. Agents will use basic information prepared by department of economics. Biggest job is to prevent unwary prospective purchasers from "biting" on the 50 percent of Michigan land considered useless for general farming.

Land-activity survey.- In cooperation with Bureau of Agricultural Economics, special land-activity survey has been under way in eight selected counties since

January and will be continued till end of war. Some findings to date: Farm land prices in Michigan are now 45 percent higher than in 1939; prices are increasing more rapidly than in first World War; farm prices are double those of pre-war level; twice as many Michigan farms changed hands in 1943 as normally; nonfarmers are buying a little over half of land; farm real-estate situation is rapidly becoming potentially more dangerous than it was during first World War. Program seems to be needed to prevent repetition of land boom, deflation, and agricultural distress that followed last war.

Artificial breeding.- Great advances are being made in artificial breeding in Michigan through efforts of extension dairy specialists. With cooperation of extension dairyman, Michigan Artificial Breeders' Cooperative, Inc., was formed last March. Memorandum of understanding was developed concerning use of research facilities of State college to assist this extension project in dairy production improvement. A barn and laboratory have been leased to cooperative by college. This permits housing of best sires that can be found through record-keeping identification program sponsored by college extension service and Bureau of Dairy Industry. Locally organized artificial breeding associations now number 18, covering approximately 1,000 herds with 9,000 cows. Additional herds and cows are being signed into local associations each month. Three training courses have been held under direction of extension dairymen and laymen-inseminator managers, who are trained in insemination technique, bookkeeping, and laboratory practice emphasizing sanitation.

Emergency war food.- General emphasis during summer and fall has been placed on production and preservation of fruits and vegetables. Emergency war food conference was held at State college in September. War food assistants and leaders heard discussions on vegetable storage, school lunches, meat curing, judging of canned products, food management, meat processing, meat canning, vegetable cookery, and other phases of food program.